

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the final rejection of all claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Amendments

Claim 33 has been newly cancelled herein and claims 1 and 3-17 have been amended in the manner noted below:

Claims 1 has been amended to remove the reference to an “*in vivo* hydrolysable ester” with respect to the claimed compounds of formulae (IB), (IC), (ID), (IE) and (IF). It has been noted that the compounds of these formulae do not involve any free hydroxy or carboxy groups within their scope, and therefore an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester would not be formed.

Dependent claims 3-17 have been amended to remove the reference to an “*in vivo* hydrolysable ester” of the claimed compounds for the same reason as noted with respect to claim 1.

Claims 18-20 were previously cancelled.

Composition claim 21 has not been amended, in that the reference to an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester is appropriate by reason of its dependence on claim 1 which includes compounds of formula (IA).

Method claims 22-32 were previously cancelled.

Method claim 33 has been newly cancelled by the above amendments.

Method claim 34 was previously cancelled.

Method claim 35 directed toward the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis has not been amended, in that the reference to an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester is appropriate by reason of its dependence on claim 1 which includes compounds of formula (IA).

The above amendments are being made for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of this application to allowance, and are being made without waiver or prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute subject matter deleted thereby in one or more continuing applications. It should be apparent from the above that no new matter is added by these amendments. Inasmuch as the claim amendments narrow the scope of the claims and place the

claims in condition for allowance, entry thereof after final rejection is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Following entry of these amendments, claims 1-17, 21 and 35 remain pending in the Application.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner notes at page 2 of the Action that any outstanding rejection/objection that is not expressly maintained in this office action has been withdrawn or rendered moot in view of applicant's amendments and/or remarks. Therefore, only the rejections that are expressly noted as having been maintained will be addressed herein.

In particular:

- The Examiner has withdrawn the obviousness-type double patenting rejection over claims of U.S. Patent 6,969,714 by reason of the Terminal Disclaimer filed herein relative to that patent on January 10, 2008; and
- The Examiner has withdrawn the rejection of claims 1-21 and 33-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Breault *et al.*, WO 02/20512.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 112

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, "because the specification, while being enabling for a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis, does not reasonably provide enablement for a method for producing a cell cycle inhibitory (anti-cell proliferation) effect. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with this ground for rejection, method claim 33 has been cancelled in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application to allowance. It is understood that the Examiner has found claim 35, which is specifically directed toward a method for treating rheumatoid arthritis, to be enabled and claim 35 therefore remains pending.

Accordingly, it is believed that this ground for rejection has been overcome, and it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

***Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting over
Coping Applications No. 10/507,163 and No. 10/507,169***

The Examiner has continued the obviousness-type double patenting rejection with respect to currently pending claims of Applications No. 10/507,163 and No. 10/507,169.

Claims 1-17, 21, 33 and 35 have been *provisionally* rejected for nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 and 22-25 of copending Application No. 10/507,163. This application is currently pending before Examiner Deepak R. Rao, with no allowed claims. A final rejection of all claims was mailed on March 18, 2008.

Claims 1-17, 21, 33 and 35 have been *provisionally* rejected for nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 and 21-24 of copending Application No. 10/507,169. This application is currently pending before Examiner Deepak R. Rao, with no allowed claims. A final rejection of all claims was mailed on February 26, 2008, and a response thereto was filed on May 27, 2008 and is awaiting further action by the Examiner.

Accordingly these obviousness-type double patenting rejections remain provisional, and Applicant is not able to meaningfully address the rejections unless and until the claims are fixed in these application by allowance.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to each of Applications No. 10/507,163 and No. 10/507,169 is submitted herewith, which Terminal Disclaimers obviate the present obviousness-type double patenting rejections. These Terminal Disclaimers are being submitted with the understanding that the filing thereof is not intended to be, and does not constitute, an admission that an obviousness-type double patenting rejection would be proper between the presently pending claims of either of these applications and the presently claimed invention (*see* MPEP 804.02II).

Updated Statement Regarding Technically Related Pending Applications

Applicants wish to update the Examiner with respect to the current status of the following technically related applications of Applicants' assignee, which applications were previously discussed at page 13 of the Amendment and Response filed herein November 19, 2007.

US Application 10/507,162 is currently pending before Examiner Deepak R. Rao. An Amendment after final rejection was filed December 17, 2007, resulting in a Notice of Allowance mailed December 27, 2008. A Request for Continued Examination was filed on January 16, 2008 together with an Amendment an Information Disclosure Statement citing several additional documents (which documents were formally cited in the present application with the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 30, 2008).

US Application 10/507,163 is currently pending before Examiner Deepak R. Rao, and a final rejection of all claims was mailed on March 18, 2008. This application has been cited in a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection in the present application, which has been overcome by the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith as discussed above.

US Application 10/507,169 is currently pending before Examiner Deepak R. Rao, and is currently pending before Examiner Deepak R. Rao, with no allowed claims. A final rejection of all claims was mailed on February 26, 2008, and a response thereto was filed on May 27, 2008 and is awaiting further action by the Examiner. This application has been cited in a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection in the present application, which has been overcome by the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith as discussed above.

US Application 10/556,561 is currently pending before Examiner Venkataraman Balasubramanian, and a Notice of Allowance was mailed on May 13, 2008.

US Application 10/556,607 has been assigned to Examiner Deepak R. Rao, and a first Action is predicted to be mailed in 4 months from the present date.

US Application 10/586,954 has been assigned to Examiner Deepak R. Rao, and a first Action is predicted to be mailed in 6 months from the present date.

US Application 11/793,254 is still undergoing preexam processing and has not yet been assigned to a Group Art Unit or to an Examiner, and no prediction is available as of yet as to when a first Action might be mailed. However, a response to a Notice to File Missing Requirements was filed on May 12, 2008, together with a further Information Disclosure Statement and a Preliminary Amendment.

US Application 11/817,389 is still undergoing preexam processing and has not yet been assigned to a Group Art Unit or to an Examiner, and no prediction is available as of yet as to when a first Action might be mailed.

It is understood that the Examiner has full electronic access to each of these files. However, the undersigned would be happy to provide the Examiner with paper copies of any documents in these files upon requested, rather than inundating the US PTO and the Examiner at this time with unwanted paper.

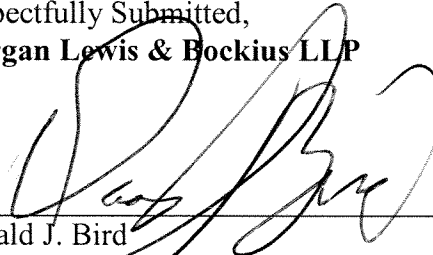
Conclusion

All remaining grounds for rejection have been addressed and, it is believed, overcome. Specifically, the remaining obviousness-type double patenting rejections have been obviated by the filing of Terminal Disclaimers herewith, and the section 112, first paragraph, non-enablement rejection has been overcome by cancelling method claim 33. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

However, if any issues remain outstanding after consideration of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to explore whether an expedited resolution might be obtained.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Director is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,
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